

# Graduation Rates for Selected Cohorts, 2007–12; Outcome Measures for Cohort Year 2007; Student Financial Aid, Academic Year 2014–15; and Admissions in Postsecondary Institutions, Fall 2015

First Look (Provisional Data)



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# Introduction

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The Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) collects institution-level data from postsecondary institutions in the United States (50 states and the District of Columbia) and other U.S. jurisdictions (see appendix A for a list of other U.S. jurisdictions). This *First Look* presents findings from the provisional data for four of the five survey components of the IPEDS winter 2015–16 data collection: *Graduation Rates* (GR), *200 Percent Graduation Rates* (GR200), *Student Financial Aid* (SFA), and *Admissions* (ADM).

GR and GR200 present graduation rates for selected cohorts within 100, 150, and 200 percent of normal program completion time (e.g., “normal” program completion time for a bachelor’s degree would be 4 years). SFA collects the number of undergraduate students awarded aid, as well as the amount of the aid awarded to those students. ADM collects information about the undergraduate selection process for entering first-time degree/certificate-seeking undergraduate students. Data for these components were collected through the IPEDS web-based data collection system. Though fielded during the same collection period, each survey component collected data on different groups of individuals (e.g., cohorts starting at a specific time). A brief summary of the winter 2015–16 survey components is included in this report and detailed information about the study methodology can be found at <http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2016111>.

This *First Look* provides users with access to fully reviewed, edited, and imputed IPEDS data. Final data, including revisions to the provisional data submitted by institutions after the close of data collection, will be available during the next collection year (2016–17).

The purpose of this report is to introduce new data through tables containing descriptive information. The findings presented here demonstrate the range of information available through IPEDS; they include only a sample of the information collected and are not meant to emphasize any particular issue. While only a few of the data included in the winter 2015–16 collection are displayed in this *First Look*, all data from the winter 2015–16 collection are publicly available through the IPEDS Data Center, found at <http://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/datacenter>.

Findings for the *Outcome Measures* (OM) component are not presented in this *First Look* because the data collected did not meet Standard 4-1-1 of the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) Statistical Standards,<sup>1</sup> which outlines several ways to examine reported data for errors. The “comparison against outside sources” check noted in Standard 4-1-1 resulted in substantial concern when matching reported OM data regarding full-time, first-time students with the institutions’ own GR and GR200 reporting from prior IPEDS collections. The scope of the inconsistencies made it impractical to obtain revised data during the collection period or to reliably statistically edit the data. However, institutions will have the opportunity to revise their 2015–16 OM reporting during the 2016–17 collection, and NCES expects to release OM data following the revision period, at the same time as other 2015–16 collection year final data.

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<sup>1</sup> See <https://nces.ed.gov/statprog/2012/pdf/Chapter4.pdf>.

## IPEDS 2015–16

Participation in IPEDS was required for institutions and administrative offices that participated in Title IV federal student financial aid programs, such as Federal Pell Grants or Federal Stafford Loans during the 2015–16 academic year.<sup>2</sup> A total of 7,177 Title IV institutions in the United States and other U.S. jurisdictions were expected to participate in the winter collection. Tables in this report focus on the 7,021 institutions in the United States; however, data from institutions in both the United States and other U.S. jurisdictions are available for download.

Detailed definitions of terms used in this report are available in the glossary (appendix B).

### Graduation Rates

The 2015–16 GR component collected counts of full-time, first-time<sup>3</sup> degree/certificate-seeking undergraduate students beginning their postsecondary education in the specified cohort year and their completion status as of 150 percent of normal program completion time at the same institution where the students started. If 150 percent of normal program completion time extended beyond August 31, 2015, the counts as of that date were collected. Four-year institutions used 2009 as the cohort year, while less-than-4-year institutions used 2012 as the cohort year. For 4-year institutions operating on standard academic terms (semester, trimester, quarter), students beginning in cohort year 2009 are those who were first-time students in the fall of the 2009–10 academic year. For 4-year institutions operating on other than standard academic terms, students beginning in cohort year 2009 are those who were first-time students between September 1, 2009, and August 31, 2010. Similarly, for less-than-4-year institutions operating on standard academic terms, students beginning in cohort year 2012 are those who were first-time students in the fall of the 2012–13 academic year. For less-than-4-year institutions operating on other than standard academic terms, students beginning in cohort year 2012 are those who were first-time students between September 1, 2012, and August 31, 2013.

### 200 Percent Graduation Rates

The GR200 component was designed to combine information reported in a prior collection via the GR component with current information about the same cohort of students. From previously collected data, the following elements were obtained: the number of students entering the institution as full-time, first-time degree/certificate-seeking students in a cohort year; the number of students in this cohort completing within 100 and 150 percent of normal program completion time; and the number of cohort exclusions (such as students who left for military service). Then the count of additional cohort exclusions and additional program completers between 151 and 200 percent of normal program completion time was collected.

Four-year institutions report on bachelor's or equivalent degree-seeking students and use cohort year 2007 as the reference period, while less-than-4-year institutions report on all students in the

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<sup>2</sup> Institutions participating in Title IV programs are accredited by an agency or organization recognized by the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Education, have a program of more than 300 clock hours or 8 credit hours, have been in business for at least 2 years, and have a signed Program Participation Agreement with the Office of Postsecondary Education, U.S. Department of Education.

<sup>3</sup> Throughout this publication, the term “first-time” refers to students with no prior postsecondary experience attending any institution for the first time at the undergraduate level. See appendix B, Glossary, for further definition of a first-time student.

cohort and use cohort year 2011 as the reference period. For 4-year institutions operating on standard academic terms (semester, trimester, quarter), students beginning in cohort year 2007 are those who were first-time students in the fall of the 2007–08 academic year. For 4-year institutions operating on other than standard academic terms, students beginning in cohort year 2007 are those who were first-time students between September 1, 2007, and August 31, 2008.

Similarly, for less-than-4-year institutions operating on standard academic terms, students beginning in cohort year 2011 are those who were first-time students in the fall of the 2011–12 academic year. For less-than-4-year institutions operating on other than standard academic terms, students beginning in cohort year 2011 are those who were first-time students between September 1, 2011, and August 31, 2012.

## **Student Financial Aid**

The SFA component collected data about financial aid awarded to undergraduate students, with particular emphasis on full-time, first-time degree/certificate-seeking undergraduate students awarded financial aid for the 2014–15 academic year. In addition, the component collected data on undergraduate and graduate students receiving military servicemembers and veterans benefits. Finally, student counts and awarded aid amounts were collected to calculate the net price of attendance for two subsets of full-time, first-time degree/certificate-seeking undergraduate students: those awarded any grant aid, and those awarded Title IV aid.

## **Admissions**

The ADM component of IPEDS collected information about the selection process for entering first-time degree/certificate-seeking undergraduate students. Data obtained from institutions include admissions considerations (e.g., secondary school records, admission test scores), the number of first-time degree/certificate-seeking undergraduate students who applied, the number admitted, and the number enrolled. Admissions data were collected only from institutions that do not have an open admissions policy for entering first-time students. Data collected correspond to individuals applying to be admitted during the fall of the 2015–16 academic year (the fall 2015 reporting period). For institutions operating on a traditional academic year calendar system (semester, trimester, quarter, or 4-1-4 system), the fall 2015 reporting period is the term containing the institution’s official fall reporting date, or October 15, 2015, if the official fall reporting date is after October 15. For institutions operating on a continuous enrollment or program-based calendar system, the fall 2015 reporting period is August 1, 2015, through October 31, 2015.

# Selected Findings

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## Graduation Rates

- Approximately 59 percent of full-time, first-time students at 4-year institutions in 2009 who were seeking a bachelor's or equivalent degree completed a bachelor's or equivalent degree within 6 years at the institution where they began their studies (table 1).
- When the time students were tracked for program completion was extended from within 100 percent of normal time to within 200 percent of normal time, graduation rates for undergraduates who were full-time, first-time students in 2011 increased from 18 percent to 35 percent at 2-year institutions and from 42 percent to 69 percent at less-than-2-year institutions (table 2).

## Student Financial Aid

- Among full-time, first-time degree/certificate-seeking undergraduate students awarded any grant aid, differences in average cost of attendance and net price of attendance<sup>4</sup> for the 2014–15 academic year varied by institutional sector (table 3). For those attending public 4-year institutions, average cost was approximately \$19,400 and net price was about \$12,400; for those attending nonprofit 4-year institutions, average cost was roughly \$38,400 and net price was about \$21,900; and for those attending for-profit 4-year institutions, average cost was approximately \$27,600 and net price was about \$22,100.

## Admissions

- Title IV institutions that do not have an open admissions policy received approximately 10 million applications for fall 2015 admission (table 4). About 5.6 million of these applications resulted in admission, and approximately 1.6 million students enrolled.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> Net price of attendance is calculated as the cost of attendance minus the average grant aid received by the students whose net price is being described. The calculation of net price of attendance does not include loan aid.

<sup>5</sup> A single individual may account for multiple applications, admissions, and enrollments (e.g., students may simultaneously enroll part-time at multiple institutions). Institutions report aggregate unduplicated counts of applicants, admissions, and enrollments. Data combined across institutions cannot be unduplicated.

## Tables

**Table 1. Graduation rates within 150 percent of normal program completion time at Title IV institutions among students who started as full-time, first-time students, by race/ethnicity, level and control of institution, and gender: United States, cohort years 2009 and 2012**

Level and control of institution and gender	Overall	Percent graduating								
		American Indian or Alaska Native	Asian	Black or African American	Hispanic or Latino	Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	White	Two or more races	Race/ethnicity unknown	Nonresident alien
<b>All 4-year institutions (cohort year 2009)<sup>1</sup></b>										
<b>Total</b>	<b>53.8</b>	<b>35.1</b>	<b>71.1</b>	<b>34.7</b>	<b>49.9</b>	<b>41.3</b>	<b>59.1</b>	<b>53.7</b>	<b>37.2</b>	<b>66.5</b>
Men	51.7	32.4	67.7	31.1	45.7	42.8	56.5	51.2	37.9	62.6
Women	55.5	37.1	74.2	37.1	53.1	40.3	61.3	55.5	36.7	70.8
Public	55.2	33.5	69.3	36.7	48.7	42.2	58.7	50.9	53.3	63.1
Men	52.0	30.2	65.7	31.7	44.3	42.1	55.5	48.0	49.1	59.0
Women	58.0	36.2	72.8	40.2	52.2	42.4	61.7	53.4	57.0	68.2
Private nonprofit	63.8	46.3	77.8	42.6	59.3	53.9	67.4	67.8	59.1	74.6
Men	60.7	44.1	75.6	37.1	55.1	53.6	64.4	65.3	56.6	70.2
Women	66.2	48.0	79.5	46.6	62.1	54.1	69.7	69.4	61.1	79.2
Private for-profit	25.9	25.6	50.6	19.4	40.8	25.6	31.9	27.1	15.3	38.0
Men	26.0	23.6	47.1	19.5	37.2	28.0	32.0	27.9	15.6	35.8
Women	25.9	26.7	53.5	19.3	43.0	24.7	31.8	26.6	15.1	39.5
<b>Bachelor's or equivalent degree-seekers attending 4-year institutions and completing bachelor's or equivalent degree (cohort year 2009)</b>										
<b>Total</b>	<b>59.4</b>	<b>41.2</b>	<b>73.0</b>	<b>39.5</b>	<b>53.6</b>	<b>48.5</b>	<b>63.3</b>	<b>59.2</b>	<b>50.6</b>	<b>68.8</b>
Men	56.2	38.1	69.8	34.3	49.1	48.8	60.0	55.9	48.1	64.2
Women	62.1	43.6	75.9	43.2	57.0	48.3	66.1	61.7	52.7	74.1
Public	58.6	39.1	71.2	40.4	52.8	49.9	61.6	54.4	56.9	64.9
Men	55.3	35.6	67.9	34.8	48.1	49.8	58.3	51.5	53.0	60.5
Women	61.4	41.8	74.5	44.2	56.5	50.1	64.5	56.9	60.2	70.3
Private nonprofit	65.6	51.9	78.5	43.5	61.1	55.8	68.8	69.6	60.7	74.8
Men	62.2	49.9	76.3	37.5	57.3	54.7	65.6	66.8	58.1	70.3
Women	68.3	53.5	80.2	48.2	63.9	56.7	71.4	71.4	62.9	79.4
Private for-profit	22.7	16.7	45.3	15.5	28.7	20.4	29.3	26.7	15.2	42.2
Men	23.9	16.4	44.9	16.0	27.4	16.5	32.1	28.7	15.4	33.2
Women	21.7	16.9	45.8	15.2	29.8	22.2	26.6	25.1	15.0	49.7

See notes at end of table.

**Table 1. Graduation rates within 150 percent of normal program completion time at Title IV institutions among students who started as full-time, first-time students, by race/ethnicity, level and control of institution, and gender: United States, cohort years 2009 and 2012—Continued**

Level and control of institution and gender	Percent graduating											
	Overall	American Indian or Alaska Native		Black or African American		Hispanic or Latino		Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander		Two or more races	Race/ethnicity unknown	Nonresident alien
		Overall	American Indian or Alaska Native	Asian	African American	Hispanic or Latino	Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	White				
<b>Total 2-year institutions (cohort year 2012)</b>												
<b>Total</b>	<b>31.6</b>	<b>26.9</b>	<b>38.4</b>	<b>24.7</b>	<b>32.4</b>	<b>37.9</b>	<b>33.2</b>	<b>26.7</b>	<b>33.5</b>	<b>36.3</b>		
Men	29.0	25.3	33.7	21.4	27.7	34.9	31.7	25.3	28.7	32.8		
Women	33.8	28.2	43.1	27.2	36.0	40.8	34.7	28.0	37.2	40.1		
Public	23.5	17.7	31.5	14.1	20.5	24.0	27.1	19.2	20.6	32.9		
Men	22.8	18.1	28.7	13.7	18.8	23.2	26.7	18.2	19.6	29.8		
Women	24.2	17.3	34.7	14.5	22.1	24.9	27.5	20.1	21.7	36.4		
Private nonprofit	56.5	44.6	60.2	47.5	60.7	69.1	62.1	51.5	54.5	67.7		
Men	55.9	45.9	54.6	42.4	58.0	69.0	62.1	43.5	55.2	69.9		
Women	56.8	43.9	63.0	49.8	61.9	69.2	62.1	55.1	54.4	66.2		
Private for-profit	61.2	60.7	74.5	50.0	68.1	66.5	64.7	57.2	51.9	68.0		
Men	58.8	57.6	71.6	47.7	63.2	64.8	62.9	56.5	51.3	61.7		
Women	62.6	62.7	76.4	51.2	70.9	67.8	65.8	57.8	52.2	75.1		
<b>Less-than-2-year institutions (cohort year 2012)</b>												
<b>Total</b>	<b>68.3</b>	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
Public	74.7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
Private nonprofit	69.0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
Private for-profit	67.3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		

— Not available. Graduation rates data are not collected by race/ethnicity or gender for less-than-2-year institutions.

<sup>1</sup>The 4-year institution cohort contains all full-time, first-time degree- or certificate-seeking undergraduates, regardless of the level of the award sought.

NOTE: Title IV institutions are those with a written agreement with the U.S. Department of Education that allows the institution to participate in any of the Title IV federal student financial assistance programs. The four U.S. service academies that are not Title IV eligible are included in the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) universe because they are federally funded and open to the public. The rates in this table reflect graduation rates at institutions regardless of the length of programs, unless otherwise indicated. The graduation rate was calculated as required for disclosure and reporting purposes under the Student Right-to-Know Act. This rate was calculated as the total number of completers within 150 percent of normal time (e.g. "normal" program completion time for a bachelor's degree would be 4 years) at the same institution where the student started divided by the adjusted cohort (revised cohort minus any allowable exclusions). The revised cohort is the number of students entering the institution as full-time, first-time degree- or certificate-seeking undergraduates in the reference year. Allowable exclusions include those students who died or were totally and permanently disabled; students who left school to serve in the armed forces (or have been called up to active duty); those who left to serve with a foreign aid service of the federal government, such as the Peace Corps; and those who left to serve on official church missions. Individuals who are in the United States on a visa or temporary basis, and who are not authorized to remain indefinitely, are included in the Nonresident alien category regardless of race or ethnicity. Students who self-identify with more than one race are included in the Two or more races category. Students of Hispanic or Latino ethnicity are included in the Hispanic or Latino category regardless of race. Definitions for terms used in this table may be found in the IPEDS online glossary located at <https://surveys.nces.ed.gov/ipeds/VisGlossaryAll.aspx>.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, IPEDS, Winter 2015–16, Graduation Rates component (provisional data).

**Table 2. Graduation rates within 100, 150, and 200 percent of normal program completion time at Title IV institutions among the students who started as full-time, first-time students, by control of institution, degree or certificate sought, level of institution, and specified time to graduation: United States, cohort years 2007 and 2011**

Degree or certificate sought, level of institution, and specified time to graduation	Percent graduating			
	All institutions	Public	Nonprofit	For-profit
Bachelor's or equivalent degree seekers attending 4-year institutions and completing bachelor's or equivalent degree (cohort year 2007)				Private
Within 100 percent of normal program completion time	39.3	33.5	52.6	18.6
Within 150 percent of normal program completion time	59.3	57.7	64.9	28.6
Within 200 percent of normal program completion time	61.6	60.6	66.1	30.2
Degree or certificate seekers attending 2-year institutions and completing a degree or certificate (cohort year 2011)				
Within 100 percent of normal program completion time	17.8	11.6	42.7	38.9
Within 150 percent of normal program completion time	30.0	21.7	55.2	60.0
Within 200 percent of normal program completion time	34.7	27.3	56.6	61.5
Degree or certificate seekers attending less-than-2-year institutions and completing a degree or certificate (cohort year 2011)				
Within 100 percent of normal program completion time	42.2	62.3	50.6	38.3
Within 150 percent of normal program completion time	67.5	73.2	67.5	66.7
Within 200 percent of normal program completion time	69.3	75.7	68.0	68.5

NOTE: Title IV institutions are those with a written agreement with the U.S. Department of Education that allows the institution to participate in any of the Title IV federal student financial assistance programs. The four U.S. service academies that are not Title IV eligible are included in the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) universe because they are federally funded and open to the public. The rates in this table reflect graduation rates at institutions regardless of the length of programs, unless otherwise indicated. The graduation rate was calculated as required for disclosure and reporting purposes under the Student Right-to-Know Act. This rate was calculated as the total number of completers within 100, 150, or 200 percent of normal time (e.g.

"normal" program completion time for a bachelor's degree would be 4 years) divided by the adjusted cohort (revised cohort minus any allowable exclusions). The revised cohort is the number of students entering the institution as full-time, first-time degree- or certificate-seeking undergraduates in the reference year. Allowable exclusions include those students who died or were totally and permanently disabled; students who left school to serve in the armed forces (or have been called up to active duty); those who left to serve with a foreign aid service of the federal government, such as the Peace Corps; and those who left to serve on official church missions. Definitions for terms used in this table may be found in the IPEDS online glossary located at <https://surveys.nces.ed.gov/ipeds/VisGlossaryAll.aspx>.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, IPEDS, Winter 2015–16, 200 Percent Graduation Rates component (provisional data).

**Table 3. Average academic year cost of attendance, average grant/scholarship aid, and net price of attendance for full-time, first-time degree/certificate-seeking undergraduate students at Title IV institutions, by control of institution, level of institution, type of aid awarded, and family income level: United States, academic year 2014–15**

Level of institution, type of aid awarded, and family income level <sup>1</sup>	Private								
	Public <sup>2</sup>			Nonprofit			For-profit		
	Average cost	Average grant/scholarship aid	Net price	Average cost	Average grant/scholarship aid	Net price	Average cost	Average grant/scholarship aid	Net price
<b>4-year</b>									
Students awarded any grant aid	\$19,435	\$7,037	\$12,398	\$38,397	\$16,485	\$21,912	\$27,558	\$5,439	\$22,119
Students awarded Title IV aid									
All family income levels	19,475	6,421	13,054	38,502	16,901	21,601	27,522	4,870	22,652
\$0–30,000	19,475	9,764	9,712	38,502	21,278	17,224	27,522	5,723	21,800
\$30,001–48,000	19,475	8,702	10,773	38,502	20,967	17,535	27,522	5,402	22,120
\$48,001–75,000	19,475	5,579	13,896	38,502	18,940	19,562	27,522	3,271	24,251
\$75,001–110,000	19,475	2,900	16,575	38,502	16,811	21,691	27,522	1,620	25,902
\$110,001 and more	19,475	1,955	17,520	38,502	13,750	24,752	27,522	1,301	26,221
<b>2-year</b>									
Students awarded any grant aid	12,199	4,834	7,365	25,425	6,450	18,976	26,521	5,242	21,278
Students awarded Title IV aid									
All family income levels	12,250	4,951	7,299	25,441	5,828	19,613	26,404	4,665	21,739
\$0–30,000	12,250	5,845	6,405	25,441	7,188	18,252	26,404	5,398	21,006
\$30,001–48,000	12,250	5,261	6,989	25,441	6,692	18,749	26,404	4,604	21,801
\$48,001–75,000	12,250	3,332	8,918	25,441	5,285	20,155	26,404	2,823	23,581
\$75,001–110,000	12,250	1,586	10,664	25,441	2,994	22,446	26,404	902	25,503
\$110,001 and more	12,250	774	11,476	25,441	2,694	22,747	26,404	561	25,843
<b>Less-than-2-year</b>									
Students awarded any grant aid	14,605	4,520	10,085	22,649	5,166	17,483	26,693	5,126	21,567
Students awarded Title IV aid									
All family income levels	14,598	4,605	9,993	22,246	4,497	17,749	26,662	4,738	21,924
\$0–30,000	14,598	4,895	9,703	22,246	6,105	16,140	26,662	5,159	21,502
\$30,001–48,000	14,598	4,888	9,709	22,246	4,519	17,727	26,662	5,184	21,477
\$48,001–75,000	14,598	3,304	11,294	22,246	2,042	20,204	26,662	4,010	22,652
\$75,001–110,000	14,598	1,616	12,981	22,246	1,799	20,447	26,662	1,084	25,577
\$110,001 and more	14,598	724	13,874	22,246	1,560	20,686	26,662	32	26,630

<sup>1</sup>Students are classified into a family income category by the institution they attend based on the income used by the institution's financial aid office to calculate the student's expected family contribution.

<sup>2</sup>Average cost, average grant/scholarship aid, and net price for public institutions are displayed for students paying in-district tuition.

NOTE: Title IV institutions are those with a written agreement with the U.S. Department of Education that allows the institution to participate in any of the Title IV federal student financial assistance programs. The four U.S. service academies that are not Title IV eligible are included in the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) universe because they are federally funded and open to the public. However, the U.S. service academies are not included in this table. The net price of attendance is the price actually charged to full-time, first-time undergraduate students awarded financial aid at an institution after deducting federal, state/local government, and institutional grant and scholarship aid. The calculation of net price of attendance does not include loan aid. Because not all institutions have students at each income level, for the purposes of this table the net price is calculated as the average cost minus the average grant/scholarship aid. Average cost is calculated using the tuition and required fees, books and supplies, room and board, and other expenses data from the Institutional Characteristics component. A weighted average of on-campus; off-campus, not with family; and off-campus, with family room and board and other expenses values was used to calculate a single average cost instead of individual costs by living arrangement. The factors used to generate this weighted average were reported in the Student Financial Aid component separately for the group of students awarded any grant aid and the group of students awarded Title IV aid. Hence, the resulting average cost values may differ between the groups. Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding. Definitions for terms used in this table may be found in the IPEDS online glossary located at <https://surveys.nces.ed.gov/ipeds/VisGlossaryAll.aspx>.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, IPEDS, Fall 2015, Institutional Characteristics component (provisional data) and Winter 2015–16, Student Financial Aid component (provisional data).

**Table 4. Number of applications, admissions, and enrollments as first-time degree/certificate-seeking undergraduate students at Title IV institutions that do not have an open admissions policy, by level of institution, gender, control of institution, and enrollment status: United States, fall 2015**

Control of institution and enrollment status	Total for all institutions	4-year			2-year			Less-than-2-year		
		Total <sup>1</sup>	Men	Women	Total <sup>1</sup>	Men	Women	Total <sup>1</sup>	Men	Women
<b>Total for all institutions</b>										
Applications	9,967,744	9,872,359	4,352,464	5,505,980	87,062	36,872	50,115	8,323	3,093	5,229
Admissions	5,558,516	5,493,916	2,333,268	3,158,783	59,534	24,942	34,532	5,066	1,904	3,161
Enrollments	1,582,505	1,549,656	705,577	843,896	29,365	12,831	16,533	3,484	1,195	2,285
Full-time	1,537,979	1,510,216	686,070	823,990	25,037	10,986	14,050	2,726	978	1,744
Part-time	44,526	39,440	19,507	19,906	4,328	1,845	2,483	758	217	541
<b>Public</b>										
Applications	5,544,377	5,500,572	2,473,570	3,025,170	40,127	19,866	20,221	3,678	1,066	2,611
Admissions	3,325,852	3,294,531	1,429,399	1,864,747	29,017	13,830	15,169	2,304	642	1,662
Enrollments	1,059,199	1,040,630	478,261	562,284	16,899	8,215	8,684	1,670	474	1,196
Full-time	1,027,755	1,013,368	465,068	548,215	13,214	6,568	6,646	1,173	300	873
Part-time	31,444	27,262	13,193	14,069	3,685	1,647	2,038	497	174	323
<b>Private nonprofit</b>										
Applications	4,301,929	4,278,544	1,840,902	2,436,258	22,524	9,487	13,022	861	147	714
Admissions	2,151,324	2,139,646	875,254	1,263,936	11,080	4,926	6,144	598	105	493
Enrollments	490,362	485,767	215,634	270,056	4,073	1,700	2,373	522	69	453
Full-time	482,190	477,826	211,179	266,589	3,940	1,661	2,279	424	69	355
Part-time	8,172	7,941	4,455	3,467	133	39	94	98	0	98
<b>Private for-profit</b>										
Applications	121,438	93,243	37,992	44,552	24,411	7,519	16,872	3,784	1,880	1,904
Admissions	81,340	59,739	28,615	30,100	19,437	6,186	13,219	2,164	1,157	1,006
Enrollments	32,944	23,259	11,682	11,556	8,393	2,916	5,476	1,292	652	636
Full-time	28,034	19,022	9,823	9,186	7,883	2,757	5,125	1,129	609	516
Part-time	4,910	4,237	1,859	2,370	510	159	351	163	43	120

<sup>1</sup>The total may include individuals who did not provide gender data.

NOTE: Title IV institutions are those with a written agreement with the U.S. Department of Education that allows the institution to participate in any of the Title IV federal student financial assistance programs. The four U.S. service academies that are not Title IV eligible are included in the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) universe because they are federally funded and open to the public. Individuals may apply to, be admitted at, and enroll at more than one institution. The counts presented in this table are aggregated across institutions and are not unduplicated. Definitions for terms used in this table may be found in the IPEDS online glossary located at <https://surveys.nces.ed.gov/ipeds/VisGlossaryAll.aspx>.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, IPEDS, Winter 2015–16, Admissions component (provisional data).

## Appendix A: Data Collection Procedures

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The winter 2015–16 collection was entirely web-based; data were collected between December 9, 2015, and February 10, 2016. Data were provided by “keyholders,” institutional representatives appointed by campus chief executives, who were responsible for ensuring that survey data submitted by the institution were correct and complete. No problems were noted during the winter 2015–16 data collection. During the collection period, the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) Help Desk was available to assist respondents with reporting the necessary data.

The IPEDS universe is established during the fall collection period. There were 7,252 Title IV institutions and administrative offices<sup>1</sup> located in the United States and other jurisdictions of the United States, such as Puerto Rico,<sup>2</sup> in the 2015–16 academic year. The four U.S. service academies that are not Title IV eligible are included in the IPEDS universe because they are federally funded and open to the public.<sup>3</sup>

Because the Title IV institutions that are the focus of IPEDS are required to participate in IPEDS, the response rates in the winter 2015–16 IPEDS collection were high: at, or rounding to, 100 percent. All 2,191 Title IV institutions expected to respond to the *Admissions* component provided data.<sup>4</sup> Responses were missing for four institutions in the *Graduation Rates* component,<sup>5</sup> four in the *200 Percent Graduation Rates* component,<sup>6</sup> and seven in the *Student Financial Aid* component.<sup>7</sup>

The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) statistical standards require that the potential for nonresponse bias for all institutions (including those in other U.S. jurisdictions) be analyzed for sectors for which the response rate is less than 85 percent. Because response rates

<sup>1</sup> Title IV institutions and administrative offices include 7,177 institutions and 75 administrative (central or system) offices. The central and system offices are required to complete the *Institutional Characteristics* component in the fall and the *Finance* and *Human Resources* components in the spring.

<sup>2</sup> The other U.S. jurisdictions surveyed in IPEDS are American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, Guam, the Marshall Islands, Palau, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

<sup>3</sup> The four U.S. service academies that are not Title IV eligible are the U.S. Naval Academy, the U.S. Military Academy, the U.S. Coast Guard Academy, and the U.S. Air Force Academy. The U.S. Merchant Marine Academy is Title IV eligible. Data for all five institutions are included in the tables and counts of institutions unless otherwise indicated.

<sup>4</sup> The *Admissions* component was required from a subset of institutions that do not have an open admissions policy for all or most entering first-time students. As a result, 2,191 Title IV institutions were expected to respond.

<sup>5</sup> The *Graduation Rates* component was required of the subset of institutions that enrolled full-time, first-time undergraduates during the cohort year. As a result, 6,353 institutions were expected to respond to the *Graduation Rates* component.

<sup>6</sup> The *200 Percent Graduation Rates* component was required of the subset of institutions that enrolled full-time, first-time undergraduates during the cohort year. As a result, 5,869 institutions were expected to respond to the *200 Percent Graduation Rates* component.

<sup>7</sup> The *Student Financial Aid* component was required of the subset of institutions that had students who received military servicemembers and veterans benefits or enrolled undergraduates during the previous academic year. As a result, 7,092 Title IV institutions were expected to respond.

were nearly 100 percent for each survey component, no such analysis was necessary. However, data from one institution that responded to the *Student Financial Aid* and one institution that responded to the *Admissions* components contained item nonresponses, and these missing items were imputed. Due to unit nonresponse, all data were imputed for seven institutions in the *Student Financial Aid* component and four institutions in the *Graduation Rates* and *200 Percent Graduation Rates* components that were expected to respond.

Detailed information about the study methodology, including imputation procedures, can be found at <http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2016111>.

## **Appendix B: Glossary of IPEDS Terms**

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**2-year institution:** Any postsecondary institution that offers programs of at least 2 but less than 4 years' duration, as well as occupational and vocational schools with programs of at least 1,800 hours and academic institutions with programs of less than 4 years. Does not include bachelor's-degree-granting institutions where the baccalaureate program can be completed in 3 years.

**4-year institution:** Any postsecondary institution that offers programs of at least 4 years' duration or programs at or above the baccalaureate level, as well as schools that offer postbaccalaureate certificates only and those that offer graduate programs only. Also includes freestanding medical, law, or other professional schools.

**academic year:** The period of time generally extending from September to June; usually equated to 2 semesters or trimesters, 3 quarters, or the period covered by a 4-1-4 calendar system.

**adjusted cohort:** In the *Graduation Rates* component of the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), an institution's revised cohort minus any allowable exclusions.

**admitted students:** Applicants that have been granted an official offer to enroll in a postsecondary institution.

**applicant:** An individual who has fulfilled the institution's requirements to be considered for admission (including payment or waiving of the application fee, if any) and who has been notified of one of the following actions: admission, nonadmission, placement on waiting list, or application withdrawn by applicant or institution.

**bachelor's or equivalent degree-seeking cohort:** In the *Graduation Rates* component of IPEDS, a cohort of students who were seeking a bachelor's or equivalent degree upon entry.

**cohort:** A specific group of students identified and tracked over time.

**cohort year:** The year that a cohort of students began attending college.

**control (of institution):** A classification of whether an institution is operated by publicly elected or appointed officials (public control) or by privately elected or appointed officials and derives its major source of funds from private sources (nonprofit or for-profit control).

**cost of attendance:** The amount of tuition and fees, room and board, books and supplies, and other expenses that a full-time, first-time degree/certificate-seeking student can expect to pay to go to college for an academic year. Costs reported by the institutions are those amounts used by the financial aid office to determine student financial need.

**degree/certificate-seeking students:** Students enrolled in courses for credit who are recognized by the institution as seeking a degree or other formal award. At the undergraduate level, this is intended to include students enrolled in vocational or occupational programs.

**entering students:** Students at the undergraduate level, both full-time and part-time, coming into the institution for the first time in the fall term (or the prior summer term who return in the fall).

This includes all first-time undergraduate students, students transferring into the institution at the undergraduate level for the first time, and non-degree/certificate seeking undergraduates entering in the fall.

**exclusions:** Those students who may be removed (deleted) from a cohort (or subcohort). For the *Graduation Rates* data collection, students may be removed from a cohort if they left the institution for one of the following reasons: they died or were totally and permanently disabled; they left to serve in the armed forces; they left to serve with a foreign aid service of the federal government, such as the Peace Corps; or they left to serve on official church missions.

**fall cohort:** The group of students entering in the fall term established for tracking purposes. For the *Graduation Rates* component, this includes all students who enter an institution as full-time, first-time degree- or certificate-seeking undergraduate students during the fall term of a given year.

**federal grants:** Grants provided by federal agencies such as the U.S. Department of Education, including Title IV Pell Grants and Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants (SEOG). Also includes need-based and merit-based educational assistance funds and training vouchers provided from other federal agencies and federally sponsored educational benefits programs, including the Department of Veterans Affairs, Department of Labor, and other federal agencies. (Used for reporting on the *Student Financial Aid* component.)

**financial aid:** Grants, loans, assistantships, scholarships, fellowships, tuition waivers, tuition discounts, military servicemembers and veterans benefits, employer aid (tuition reimbursement), and other monies (other than from relatives/friends) provided to students to meet expenses. This includes Title IV subsidized and unsubsidized loans made directly to students.

**first-time student (undergraduate):** A student attending any institution for the first time at the undergraduate level. Includes students enrolled in academic or occupational programs. Also includes students enrolled in the fall term who attended college for the first time in the prior summer term, as well as students who entered with advanced standing (college credits earned before graduation from high school).

**full-time undergraduate student:** A student enrolled for 12 or more semester credits, or 12 or more quarter credits, or 24 or more contact hours a week each term.

**graduation rate:** The rate required for disclosure and/or reporting purposes under the Student Right-to-Know Act. This rate is calculated as the total number of completers within 150 percent of normal time at the same institution where the student started divided by the adjusted cohort (revised cohort minus any allowable exclusions).

**in-district student:** A student who is a legal resident of the locality in which he/she attends school and thus is entitled to reduced tuition charges if offered by the institution.

**in-district tuition:** The tuition charged by the institution to those students residing in the locality in which they attend school. This may be a lower rate than in-state tuition if offered by the institution.

**institutional grants:** Scholarships and fellowships granted and funded by the institution and/or individual departments within the institution (i.e., instruction, research, public service) that may contribute indirectly to the enhancement of these programs. Includes scholarships targeted to

certain individuals (e.g., based on state or jurisdiction of residence, major field of study, athletic team participation) for which the institution designates the recipient.

**less-than-2-year institution:** This group includes any postsecondary institution that only offers programs of less than 2 years' duration below the baccalaureate level, as well as occupational and vocational schools with programs that do not exceed 1,800 contact hours.

**level of institution:** A classification of whether an institution's programs are of at least 4 years' duration or beyond a baccalaureate level (4-year institution), at least 2 but less than 4 years (2-year institution), or less than 2 years (less-than-2-year institution).

**loans to students:** Any monies that must be repaid to the lending institution for which the student is the designated borrower. Includes all Title IV subsidized and unsubsidized loans and all institutionally and privately sponsored loans. Does not include PLUS and other loans made directly to parents.

**net price:** The Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2008 defines institutional net price as "the average yearly price actually charged to first-time, full-time undergraduate students receiving student aid at an institution of higher education after deducting such aid." In IPEDS, the institutional net price of attendance is generated by subtracting the average amount of federal, state/local government, or institutional grant and scholarship aid from the average total cost of attendance. Total cost of attendance is the sum of published tuition and required fees (lower of in-district or in-state for public institutions), books and supplies, and the weighted average for room and board and other expenses. Cost of attendance data are collected in the *Institutional Characteristics* (IC) component of IPEDS, and financial aid data are collected in the *Student Financial Aid* (SFA) component of IPEDS.

**non-first-time student:** A student who has prior postsecondary experience before attending the reporting IPEDS institution.

**nonresident alien:** A person who is not a citizen or national of the United States and who is in this country on a visa or temporary basis and does not have the right to remain indefinitely.

**normal time to completion:** The amount of time necessary for a student to complete all requirements for a degree or certificate according to the institution's catalog. This is typically 4 years (8 semesters or trimesters, or 12 quarters, excluding summer terms) for a bachelor's degree in a standard term-based institution; 2 years (4 semesters or trimesters, or 6 quarters, excluding summer terms) for an associate's degree in a standard term-based institution; and the various scheduled times for certificate programs.

**Office of Postsecondary Education (OPE):** Office within the U.S. Department of Education that formulates federal postsecondary education policy and administers programs that address critical national needs in support of its mission to increase access to quality postsecondary education.

**open admission:** An admission policy whereby the school will accept any student who applies.

**postsecondary education:** The provision of a formal instructional program whose curriculum is designed primarily for students beyond the compulsory age for high school. This includes programs whose purpose is academic, vocational, and continuing professional education, and excludes avocational and adult basic education programs.

**postsecondary institution:** An institution that has as its sole purpose, or one of its primary missions, the provision of postsecondary education. For IPEDS, this institution must be open to the public.

**private for-profit institution:** A private institution in which the individual(s) or agency in control receives compensation other than wages, rent, or other expenses for the assumption of risk.

**private institution:** An educational institution controlled by a private individual(s) or by a nongovernmental agency, usually supported primarily by other than public funds, and operated by other than publicly elected or appointed officials. These institutions may be either for-profit or nonprofit.

**private nonprofit institution:** A private institution in which the individual(s) or agency in control receives no compensation, other than wages, rent, or other expenses for the assumption of risk. These include both independent nonprofit schools and those affiliated with a religious organization.

**Program Participation Agreement (PPA):** A written agreement between a postsecondary institution and the Secretary of Education. This agreement allows institutions to participate in any of the Title IV student assistance programs other than the State Student Incentive Grant (SSIG) and the National Early Intervention Scholarship and Partnership (NEISP) programs. The PPA conditions the initial and continued participation of an eligible institution in any Title IV program upon compliance with the General Provisions regulations, the individual program regulations, and any additional conditions specified in the program participation agreement that the Department of Education requires the institution to meet. Institutions with such an agreement are referred to as Title IV institutions.

**public institution:** An educational institution whose programs and activities are operated by publicly elected or appointed school officials and which is supported largely by public funds.

**race/ethnicity:** Categories developed in 1997 by the Office of Management and Budget that are used to describe groups to which individuals belong or identify with. The categories do not denote scientific definitions of anthropological origins. The designations are used to categorize U.S. citizens, resident aliens, and other eligible noncitizens.

Individuals are asked to first designate ethnicity as:

- Hispanic or Latino; or
- Not Hispanic or Latino.

Second, individuals are asked to indicate all races that apply among the following:

- American Indian or Alaska Native;
- Asian;
- Black or African American;
- Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander; and
- White.

For reporting purposes, students who identify with more than one race are included in the Two or more races category.

**resident alien (and other eligible noncitizens):** A person who is not a citizen or national of the United States but who has been admitted as a legal immigrant for the purpose of obtaining permanent resident alien status and who holds one of the following: an alien registration card (Form I-551 or I-151), a Temporary Resident Card (Form I-688), or an Arrival-Departure Record (Form I-94) with a notation that conveys legal immigrant status such as Section 207 Refugee, Section 208 Asylee, Conditional Entrant Parolee, or Cuban-Haitian.

**revised cohort:** Initial cohort after revisions are made. This is the number from which graduation and transfer-out rates are calculated. Cohorts may be revised if an institution discovers that incorrect data were reported in an earlier year.

**sector:** One of nine institutional categories resulting from dividing the universe according to control and level. Control categories are public, nonprofit, and for-profit. Level categories are 4 years and higher (4-year institutions), at least 2 but less than 4 years (2-year institutions), and less than 2 years (less-than-2-year institutions). For example: sector 1 = public 4-year institutions; sector 2 = nonprofit 4-year institutions.

**state and local government grants:** State and local monies awarded to the institution under state and local student aid programs, including the state portion of State Student Incentives Grants (SSIG) (used for reporting *Student Financial Aid* data).

**Student Right-to-Know Act:** Also known as the “Student Right-to-Know and Campus Security Act” (P.L. 101-542), which was passed by Congress November 9, 1990. Title I, Section 103 requires institutions eligible for Title IV funding to disclose completion or graduation rates of certificate- or degree-seeking, full-time students entering an institution to all students and prospective students. Further, Section 104 requires each institution that participates in any Title IV program and is attended by students receiving athletically related student aid to annually submit a report to the Secretary of Education. This report is to contain, among other things, graduation/completion rates of all students as well as students receiving athletically related student aid by race/ethnicity and gender and by sport, and the average completion or graduation rate for the 4 most recent years. These data are also required to be disclosed to parents, coaches, and potential student athletes when the institution offers athletically related student aid. The *Graduation Rates* component of IPEDS was developed specifically to help institutions respond to these requirements.

**subcohort:** A predefined subset of the initial cohort or the revised cohort established for tracking purposes on the *Graduation Rates* component of IPEDS (e.g., bachelor's or equivalent degree-seeking subcohort).

**Title IV institution:** An institution that is accredited by an agency or organization recognized by the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Education, has at least one program of more than 300 clock hours or 8 credit hours, has been in business for at least 2 years, and has a signed Program Participation Agreement with the Office of Postsecondary Education, U.S. Department of Education.

**undergraduate student:** A student enrolled in a 4- or 5-year bachelor's degree program, an associate's degree program, or a vocational or technical program below the baccalaureate level.